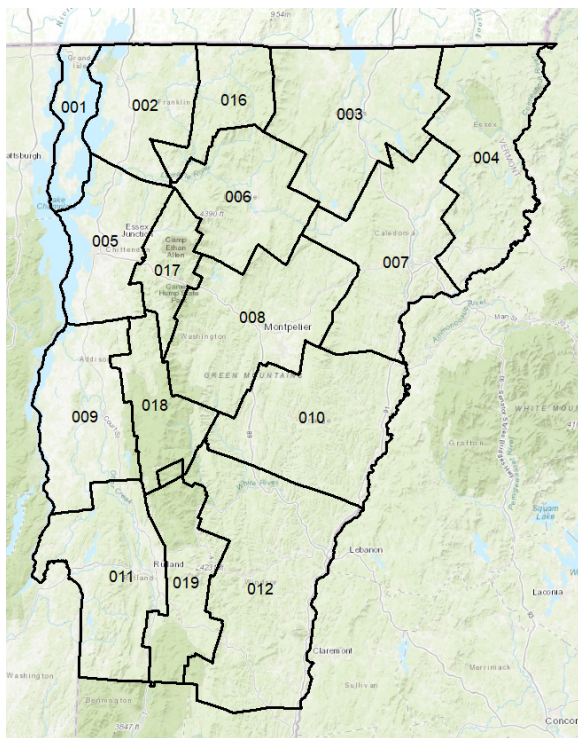


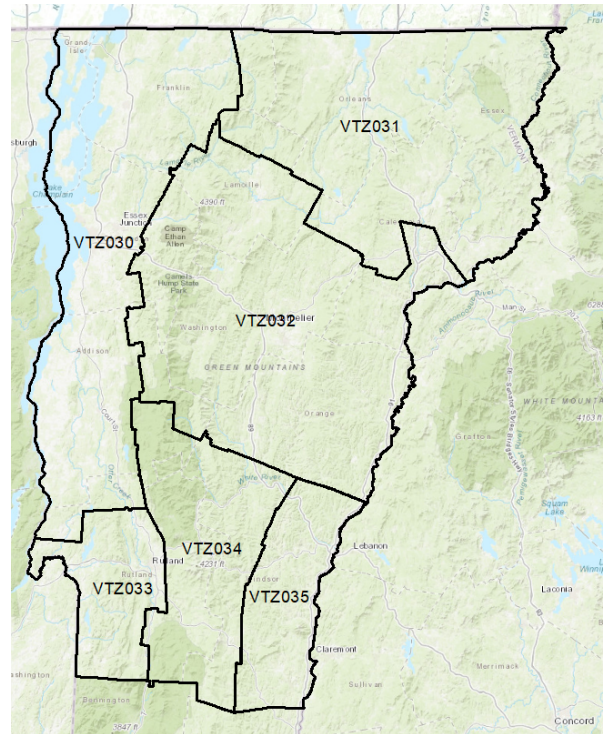
Fire Weather Zone Changes for Vermont

Overview

Effective Tuesday March 22nd, 2022, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Burlington, VT (BTV) will change the Vermont fire weather zones within our County Warning Area (CWA). Instead of having 16 individual fire weather zones, we have worked closely with our fire weather partners to reduce the amount of fire zones down to 6 separate zones. The split of the zones has been decided based on topography, fuels, and weather. Below are graphics depicting the changes to our fire weather zones.



Old Fire Weather Zones



New Fire Zones

Justification

Recently there has been a significant rework of the nationwide system for predicting wildfire danger (NFDRS 2016). The NFDRS 2016 system has tasked state fire and land management agencies with reassessing and editing Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs), which are geographic zones consisting of similar fuels, topography, and weather conditions. Our current fire weather zones tend to be more county based and do not necessarily consider these important elements (fuels, topography, and weather) that the new FRDAs are based on. Thus aligning our fire weather zones with the new FDRAs would better connect fire danger outputs with our suite of fire weather products (Fire Weather Planning

Forecast, Fire Weather Watches, and Red Flag Warnings) to support the needs of our fire weather partners and the public.

Representatives from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation have provided us with their new FDRAs. We are in full support of the areas they created. These changes have been coordinated with other agencies associated with our fire weather program (Green Mountain National Forest and Vermont Emergency Management).

Table 1. WFO BTV's Affected Fire Weather Zones

| Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC | New Fire Weather Zone/UGC |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Grand Isle / VTZ001 | Champlain Valley/ VTZ030 |
| Western Franklin / VTZ002 | Northeast Kingdom / VTZ031 |
| Orleans / VTZ003 | Central VT / VTZ032 |
| Essex / VTZ004 | Northern Taconics / VTZ033 |
| Western Chittenden / VTZ005 | South-Central Greens / VTZ034 |
| Lamoille / VTZ006 | Lower Connecticut Valley North / VTZ035 |
| Caledonia / VTZ007 | |
| Washington / VTZ008 | |
| Western Addison / VTZ009 | |
| Orange / VTZ010 | |
| Western Rutland / VTZ011 | |
| Windsor / VTZ012 | |
| Eastern Franklin / VTZ016 | |
| Eastern Chittenden / VTZ017 | |
| Eastern Addison / VTZ018 | |
| Eastern Rutland / VTZ019 | |

Table 2. WFO BTV's Products Affected by These Changes

| Product Name | WMO Header | AWIPS ID |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KBTB | FWFBTV |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KBTB | RFWBTV |

If you are affected by these changes, take the appropriate actions so your system(s) recognize the new zone Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) and the new zone alignments.

The proposed changes to the BTV fire weather zones have been closely coordinated with our local partners.

Again, the implementation date for these changes will be March 22, 2022 with a backup date of March 29, 2022. Click [here](#) for the service change notice.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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